

***Salix glauca* (L.)**
glaucous willow
Salicaceae (Willow Family)

Status: State Sensitive

Rank: G5?S1S2

General Description: Branching, erect shrub up to 60 in. (150 cm) tall. New twigs have a woolly-hairy covering. Twigs of the season have a dark or reddish hue under the pubescence. The leaf blades are entire and elliptic with a bluish-white waxy coating below. When young, they are hairy on both sides but can become nearly hairless with age. The leaves and catkins develop at the same time. Scales of the catkins are hairy on both sides and can range from light to dark brown. The anthers are generally longer than 1/32 in. (½ mm), and the styles are longer than the stigmas. The capsules are hairy and borne on pedicels.

Identification Tips: The leaves are glaucous below. The yellowish petioles are ¼ to 1/3 in. (4 to 10 mm) long, which is longer than the axillary bud. Catkins are borne on leafy-bracteate peduncles. The seed capsules are hairy. *Salix glauca*, as the name implies, has a distinct glaucous coloration compared to other willows.

Phenology: The catkins develop with the leaves. *Salix glauca* is identifiable July through August, but the flowers may remain persistent until the beginning of September.

Range: The species is circumboreal and extends southward in the Rockies. In Washington, *Salix glauca* occurs in Okanogan County.

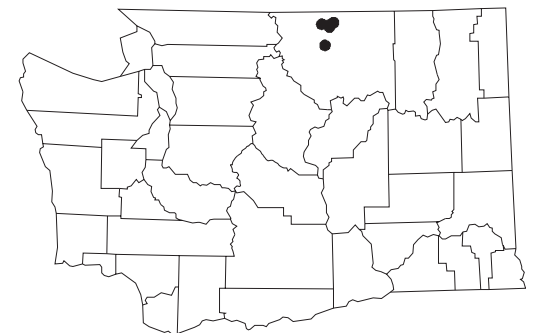
Habitat: Moist places or open slopes at moderate to high elevations in the mountains often above the timberline. These include riparian areas, shrub wetlands, and gravel slopes. In Washington, the species may be found between 4000 to 6000 ft (1219 to 1829 m). Known associates include hoary willow (*Salix candida*), another state sensitive willow.

Ecology: In Washington, this species occurs only in Okanogan County. Okanogan County supports many circumboreal species otherwise not known from the state. The species reportedly grows some distance from the water's edge and is separate from other willows.

Salix glauca
glaucous willow



Known distribution
of *Salix glauca*
in Washington



● Current (1980+)
○ Historic (older than 1980)

Salix glauca
glaucous willow



Photo by Robert Moseley



Photo by J Ruft



Photo by Robert Moseley

Salix glauca
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State Status Comments: There are five known occurrences in Washington. One occurrence has over 1,000 plants, although others have only a few plants each.

Inventory Needs: There has been little inventory effort so far, and additional inventory is needed.

Threats and Management Concerns: Because *S. glauca* occurs in riparian habitats, there is danger that beaver activity could flood the areas where it is found and destroy the populations. Additional types of hydrologic alteration also pose a threat to the species. Additional threats include timber harvest, road construction, recreation, and grazing.

References:

Hitchcock, C.L., A. Cronquist, M. Ownbey, and J.W. Thompson. 1964. *Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest, Part 2: Salicaceae to Saxifragaceae*. University of Washington Press, Seattle. 597pp.